

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 5, 2006 was received and carefully reviewed. The Examiner is thanked for reviewing the application.

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1, 4-9, 17-20, 22 and 25-61 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 25-61 have been canceled, and claim 1 has been amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-9, 17-20 and 22 are pending for consideration, of which claim 1 is independent.

In the detailed Office Action, claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 17-20, 22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kawasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,424,012 – hereafter Kawasaki) in view of Yeo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,534,788 – hereafter Yeo). Further, claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kawasaki in view of Yeo, and further in view of Ogawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,362,507 – hereafter Ogawa). Still further, claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kawasaki in view of Yeo, and further in view of Someya et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0080295 – hereafter Someya). Finally, claim 9 stands objected to as lacking proper antecedent basis for the source wiring line and the gate wiring line.

Initially, Applicants have canceled claims 25-61, as shown above, without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter disclosed therein. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application to claim the features of the canceled claims in the future, as necessary.

In the interest of expediting the allowance of this application, Applicants have amended claim 1, as shown above, to further distinguish the presently claimed invention over the cited prior art references. Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 1 to further recite “the shortest distance between the channel formation region and the first wiring line is longer than the shortest distance between the capacitor wiring line and the semiconductor region”. Support for the amended features can be found at least in, e.g., Fig. 2A. Applicants respectfully assert that neither Kawasaki nor Yeo teach, disclose or suggest the amended feature in combination with other claimed features.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention according to amended claim 1 has remarkable effects having large capacitance because the shortest distance

between the capacitor wiring line and the semiconductor region is shorter than the shortest distance between the first insulating layer and the channel formation region, due to a thin thickness of a part of the first insulating layer and the channel formation region and the low concentration impurity region having a uniform thickness.

With regard to claim 9, Applicants respectfully assert again that Kawasaki fails to teach, disclose or suggest the claimed feature wherein "the storage capacitor is formed under the source wiring line and/or the gate wiring line" recited in claim 9. Further, claim 9 has been amended, as shown above, to overcome the objection.

The requirements for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness, as detailed in MPEP § 2143 - 2143.03 (pages 2100-122 - 2100-136), are: first, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference to combine the teachings; second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and, finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. As Kawasaki and Yeo are deficient as discussed above, the application of the references in the obviousness rejection of claim 1, and its respective dependent claims, is improper.

The amendments and arguments set forth above with respect to independent claim 1 are also applicable to the rejection of its dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections and objection of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1, 4-9, 17-20 and 22 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue. If a conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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